IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 10 and 16 as follows:

1. (currently amended) An optical beam steering system for steering an optical beam, comprising:

a) an optics system having a focal plane, a lens, and an optical axis;

b) a plurality of source elements positioned on said focal plane, each capable of providing a point source of radiation to said optics system, said optics system providing a collimated output; ~~and,~~

c) a small angle beam steerer for receiving said collimated output and redirecting said collimated output through a small angular deviation, the redirected output thus being transmitted in a desired direction without a need for mechanical gimbals, said desired direction capable of covering a large angular range with respect to said optical axis[[.]]; and

d) wherein the lens is configured to receive the radiation from each of the source elements and to provide the radiation to the beam steerer.

2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said small angle beam steerer is capable of steering in a range of about 0 to 5 degrees.

3. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said small angle beam steerer comprises an optical phased array.

4. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said optics system comprises a wide angle lens.

5. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein each source element comprises an end of a single mode optical fiber.

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6. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said plurality of source elements comprise a plurality of laser diodes.

7. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said plurality of source elements comprises a plurality of vertical cavity surface emitting lasers (VCSEL).

8. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said plurality of source elements comprises a two-dimensional optical fiber array.

9. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said plurality of source elements comprise an optical switching network.

10. (currently amended) An optical beam steering system for steering an optical beam, comprising:

a) a small angle beam steerer for receiving a collimated laser beam and redirecting said collimated laser beam through a small angular deviation;

b) an optics system having a focal plane and an optical axis, said optics system for focusing said redirected laser beam onto said focal plane; ~~and,~~

c) a plurality of detector elements positioned on said focal plane, each capable of receiving the focused laser beam from a desired direction without a need for mechanical gimbals, said desired direction capable of covering a large angular range with respect to said optical axis[[.]]; and

d) wherein the small angle beam steerer cooperates with the optics system and the detector elements to at least partially define a receiver.

11. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein said small angle beam steerer is capable of steering in a range of about 0 to 5 degrees.

12. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein said small angle beam steerer comprises an optical phased array.

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13. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein said optics system comprises a wide angle lens.

14. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein said plurality of detector elements comprise PIN's.

15. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein said plurality of detector elements comprise APD's.

16. (currently amended) A method for optical beam steering, comprising the steps of:

a) providing radiation from a selected one of a plurality of point sources of radiation to an optics system ~~from a focal plane of said optics system~~, said optics system comprising a lens and providing a collimated output; and,

b) redirecting said collimated output through a small angular deviation utilizing a small angle beam steerer, the redirected output thus being transmitted in a desired direction without a need for mechanical gimbals, said desired direction capable of covering a large angular range with respect to an optical axis of said optics system[[.]]; and

c) wherein the lens is configured to receive radiation from each of the point sources and to provide the radiation to the beam steerer.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said step of redirecting said collimated output comprises small angle steering in a range of about 0-5 degrees.

18. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said step of redirecting said collimated output comprises utilizing an optical phased array.

19. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said step of redirecting said collimated output comprises utilizing a wide angle lens.

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